

Public Law 100-482
100th Congress

Joint Resolution

Commemorating the bicentennial of the French Revolution and the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen.

Oct. 11, 1988

[S.J. Res. 317]

Whereas the Treaty of Commerce and Amity concluded February 6, 1778, between France and the United States was the first alliance entered into by the United States;

Whereas the independence of the United States was achieved with significant assistance from France and from individual citizens of France;

Whereas the ideals of liberty and freedom which animated the people of the United States during the American Revolution were shared by many of the people of France and are held sacred by both peoples today;

Whereas the year 1789 was of particular significance in the history of both France and the United States, marking the opening chapter of the French Revolution and the concluding chapter of the American Revolution;

Whereas within a period of 31 days, the National Assembly of France approved the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen on August 26, 1789, and the Congress of the United States approved the Bill of Rights on September 25, 1789, thereby proclaiming the sanctity of human rights on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean and guaranteeing them for future generations;

Whereas the Government of France has established a Commission for the Bicentennial of the French Revolution and the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen; and

Whereas an American Committee on the French Revolution has been organized to plan an appropriate commemoration in the United States of the bicentennial of the historic events of 1789 and of the shared aspirations, ideals, and experiences of the French and American peoples: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) the Congress and people of the United States extend to the people of France an expression of friendship and high regard on the occasion of the bicentennial of the French Revolution.

(b) The Congress hereby—

(1) urges the people of the United States to observe the bicentennial of the French Revolution as may be appropriate to the occasion; and

(2) finds with pride and satisfaction that France and the United States remain fully committed to the principles of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, and the Bill of Rights, respectively.

(c)(1) There shall be printed as a Senate document during the bicentennial year 1989 the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, and the Bill of Rights, with accompanying historical notes, including

(2) bound volumes suitable for presentation to the President of the French Republic, the President of the Senate of France, and the President of the National Assembly of France.

Approved October 11, 1988.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 317:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 134 (1988):

June 23, considered and passed Senate.

Sept. 20, considered and passed House, amended.

Sept. 23, Senate concurred in House amendments.